

REMARKS

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

There are no formal matters pending.

Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 19 stand rejected as obvious over FERNANDEZ, WO 99/65256 in view of SHUMAN 6,708,202.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, and 18 stand rejected as obvious over FERNANDEZ and SHUMAN, in view of SCANNELL et al. 5,377,354.

Claim 10 stands rejected as obvious over FERNANDEZ and SHUMAN, in view of NELSON 6,061,718.

Dependent Claims 20, 22, 25 and 26 stand rejected as obvious over FERNANDEZ [and SHUMAN] in view of CHONG et al. 5,497,319; Claims 21, 23, 27 and 28 stand rejected as obvious over FERNANDEZ [and SHUMAN] and SCANNELL et al. in view of CHONG et al.

Claim 24 is stated as being rejected as obvious over SCANNELL et al. in view of CHONG et al. Claim 24, however, depends from claim 5. Therefore, it is believed that the rejection is actually over FERNANDEZ and SHUMAN in view of SCANNELL et al. in further view of CHONG et al.

Claim 29 is stated (OA page 14) to stand rejected as obvious over NELSON in view of CHONG et al. Claim 29, however, depends from claim 10. Therefore, it is believed that the rejection is actually over FERNANDEZ and SHUMAN in view of NELSON in further view of CHONG et al.

Response

The Official Action, spanning pages 3-4, acknowledges that FERNANDEZ does not disclose the text of an email being shortened into a short text by including registered keywords and excluding words intermediate the registered keywords.

SHUMAN is newly applied and is offered as teaching a method for highlighting information contained in an email. The SHUMAN method is offered as teaching shortening text of an email by including registered keywords from within the email, and excluding words intermediate the registered keywords. Specifically, column 11, 65 through column 12, line 8 is offered for this teaching.

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

To understand the teachings of SHUMAN, the entire reference should be considered. Studying the entire reference provides guidance as to what one of skill, absent inexpressible hindsight, would understand as to the art, at the time of SHUMAN and teachings of SHUMAN as to what could be done and how it could be done.

The SHUMAN Abstract discloses that SHUMAN concerns a form for displaying an electronic message item includes an information object that highlights important information about the message. The Abstract continues by disclosing that the information displayed in the information object is automatically derived by examining the message properties that constitute the message item, the examination being conducted by applying a series of if-then statements to predetermined message properties.

The Abstract discloses a further methodology of , if the results of one or more of the if-then tests are true, the program composes one or more information items that reflect the state of the message item. Further, SHUMAN's Abstract teaches that the information items are composed in a natural language format and are prioritized prior to being displayed in the information object.

As to column 11, line 65 through column 12, line 8, this passage is reproduced below, together with the preceding section heading (emphasis added):

The Preferred Method for Highlighting Information
Associated With an Electronic Message

The present invention provides a method for highlighting information contained in an electronic message, which may be an e-mail message, meeting request, or other form of electronic communication. Generally described, the present

invention provides an information object (referred to as an "information bar" or "**info**bar") that is used to highlight important information that is extracted or derived from the contents of the electronic message. This helps draw the user's attention to the important information and virtually eliminates the possibility that the user will overlook the important information.

Applicant does not believe that this passage of SHUMAN teaches shortening text of an email by including registered keywords from within the email, and excluding words intermediate the registered keywords. Rather, the passage teaches to create a new data element, i.e., the info**bar**, which is populated with important information extracted or derived from the contents of the electronic message. There is no teaching as to editing or shortening the email message portion text.

The lines of column 12, line 8 detail the info**bar** and the "important information" created to populate the info**bar**.

Figure 6 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a display window 600 that is used to display an electronic message and an info**bar** 630. A message window 615 provides space for displaying message header information 620 (e.g., to, from, subject, etc.) and message text 625.

The info**bar** 630 is used to highlight important information about the message. The info**bar** occupies the highest visibility real estate and is preferably displayed using a

prominent graphical design and color. The high-profile location, graphical design and color make the infobar 630 readily visible.

The infobar 630 includes one or more information items that describe some aspect of the message item. Each information item includes an icon 635 and a text string 640. The icon 635 may be chosen to reflect the nature of the information conveyed in the text string 640.

This disclosure of SHUMAN also does not teach shortening text of an email by including registered keywords from within the email, and excluding words intermediate the registered keywords.

See Figures 7-8, providing examples of how an infobar can be used to display information when used with e-mail and meeting request message items.

Figure 7 illustrates a display window 700 associated with a meeting request message item (the user Bill has received a meeting request message from Bob Smith). The user views the message in the display window 700, which includes message window 715. The message window 715 displays header information 720, which includes the name of the meeting organizer and the subject, location, and time of the meeting. Beneath the header information 720, the message window 715 includes text 725, which was provided by the organizer.

See column 12, beginning at line 42, "The message window 715 also includes an infobar 730. When the user selects a

meeting request message to be viewed, the form that is used to view the object automatically invokes code that evaluates the state of various message properties and determines what, if any, information should be displayed in the infobar 730. In this example, the program module has automatically checked the proposed meeting date against the user's calendar, and has determined that the proposed meeting date conflicts with an appointment that the user has already scheduled. Accordingly, the infobar 730 displays an information item that reports the conflict. In this case, the information item includes a warning icon 735 and a text string 740, which states 'This meeting conflicts with another appointment on your calendar.' Without the infobar 730, the user may not be immediately aware of the conflict."

Thus, the SHUMAN teaching concerning column 11, line 65 through column 12, line 8, is to provide an **infobar** used to highlight important information that is extracted or derived from the contents of the electronic message. In this example, the meeting time conflict. This helps draw the user's attention to the important information (time conflict) and virtually eliminates the possibility that the user will overlook the important information. However, see that the entire text of the email is displayed. There is no teaching as to the recitation of shortening text of an email by including registered keywords from

within the email, and excluding words intermediate the registered keywords.

Figure 8 illustrates a display window 800 associated with an e-mail message. The message window 815 displays header information 820, which includes the name of the sender and the subject of the message. Beneath the header information 820, the message window 815 includes the message text 825, which was provided by the sender.

Again, the entire text of the email message is displayed. Thus, this disclosure of SHUMAN also does not teach shortening text of an email by including registered keywords from within the email, and excluding words intermediate the registered keywords.

In contrast to the present invention, SHUMAN teaches to create a new data element, the infobar. SHUMAN teaches that when the user selects an e-mail message to be viewed, the form that is used to view the message automatically invokes code that evaluates various message properties and determines what, if any, information should be displayed in the infobar. In the Figure 8 example, the program module has automatically checked the message properties determined that the sender set the message priority to "high." Accordingly, the infobar 830 displays an information item that reports that the message priority is high. In this case, the information item includes an information icon 835 and a text string 840, which states "This message has high importance."

SHUMAN, in this example, teaches an additional data element that helps the user avoid overlooking that level of importance placed on the message by the sender.

Thus, SHUMAN does not teach that for which it was offered. Even if one of skill were to consider SHUMAN, the teaching would be to add the infobar.

Thus, even if combined, there is no teaching as to shortening text of an email by including registered keywords from within the email, and excluding words intermediate the registered keywords.

Accordingly, at least for this reason, all the rejections fail.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant's previously arguments were not discussed (Official Action page 2, paragraph 3.) The following largely repeat the remarks of the last amendment and are included in that the current rejections also fail to teach or suggest these features of the invention.

Original claim 3 recited "the keywords are individual keywords including dates, place names, proper names and individually set particular terms, and group keywords including an occupation, an occupational type and an age group of an electronic mail sender and receiver". Previously, claim 3 was amended to recite (emphasis added):

"an analysis means for receiving the electronic mail sent from the first sending means via the internet and for carrying out a keyword analysis of the received electronic mail on the basis of keywords previously registered by the receiver to obtain a short text of a message portion of the electronic mail, the analysis means selectively shortening the message portion to retain text corresponding to the registered keywords and to leave out words not corresponding to the registered keywords;

...

"the keywords are individual keywords including dates, place names, proper names and individually set particular terms, and group keywords including an occupation, an occupational type and an age group of an electronic mail sender and receiver".

Applicant understands the essence of the current rejections (as to FERNANDEZ) to be that the limitation "keyword" can be read onto a numeric value representing a maximum message length limit (FERNANDEZ page 5, lines 5-15), e.g., 100 characters.

This numeric value is registered before obtaining the email and is used to truncate the email to the specified length. Thus, the truncated length of the FERNANDEZ email is said (by the Official Action) to satisfy selectively shortening the message portion to retain text corresponding to the registered keywords and to leave out words not corresponding to the registered

keywords in that the retained 100 characters would correspond to the registered numeric value of 100 and the discarded characters would not correspond to the registered 100.

Even if the numeric value is a registered keyword. This numeric value is the sole basis for shortening the FERNADEZ email length. Note that every claim recited **registered keywords** and thus there must be plural keywords. The Official Action has not indicated that FERNADEZ meets this limitation.

For this reason, all of the claims previously pending are believed allowable.

Additionally, at least to claim 3, there must be disclosure of registered keywords are individual keywords including dates, place names, proper names and individually set particular terms, and group keywords including an occupation, an occupational type and an age group of an electronic mail sender and receiver.

For this further reason, claim 3 is believed allowable.

As to the independent claims, the prior art, even if combined, fails to teach shortening text of an email by including registered keywords from within the email, and excluding words intermediate the registered keywords.

Thus, even if the applied prior art is combined, there is no teaching as to shortening text of an email by including registered keywords from within the email, and excluding words intermediate the registered keywords.

The inventive analysis means reads the received electronic mail and carries out a keyword analysis of the readout electronic mail on the basis of keywords previously registered by the receiver to obtain a short text of a message portion of the electronic mail, the analysis means selectively shortening the message portion to retain text corresponding to the registered keywords and to leave out words not corresponding to the registered keywords.

FERNANDEZ makes no teaching as to using previously registered **keywords** as a basis for obtaining a short text of the electronic mail that retains within the short message the registered keywords but omits other words intermediate these keywords.

FERNANDEZ, specifically, page 5, lines 1-15 teaches "a system for delivering notification of e-mail ... [with] account deliver options The e-mail messages ... are in a 'summarized' form consistent with the message length limit and typically small display of a phone. [The e-mail message includes] some basic information about the messages such as the identity of the sender, ... and a truncated version of the main text."

So, FERNANDEZ also teaches filtering e-mail messages and sending a "summarized form" of the e-mail with a truncated version of the main text. The filter determines what messages get sent and not what comprises the summarized form of the sent message.

There is no teaching found that provides that the text of the email is shortened into a short text, by including the registered keywords and excluding words that are not registered keywords.

For example, there is no teaching of retaining text portions of the e-mail that include registered words relating to dates, place names, proper names and individually set particular terms, and group keywords including an occupation, an occupational type and an age group of an electronic mail sender and receiver (claim 3).

Claim 19 recites the keyword database. For support, see specification page 14, disclosing, with reference to application Figure 3, that the keyword analysis server 9 refers to the keyword database 12 storing predetermined group keywords and individual keywords and deletes some inessential words from the received e-mail while leaving the keywords, for example, dates, place names, spots, proper names and individually set particular terms such as "above-captioned case, have studied, your company, proposal, accept, contract, various conditions, qualified person, attend and so on" to prepare a short text 18. The keyword analysis server 9 then outputs the prepared short text 18 as a keyword analyzed e-mail 17.

Thus, the invention provides a means for shortening the e-mail text such that important, i.e., registered keywords,

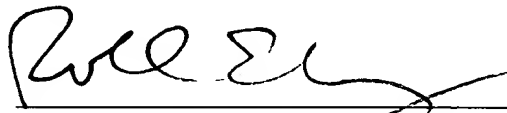
remain in the shortened text and non-essential words are left out of the shortened text.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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